

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a golf ball according to claim ~~16~~, wherein a difference ($T_2 - T_s$) between the highest temperature T_2 of the mold and ~~a~~ the softening point T_s of the thermoplastic ~~resin~~ resinous composition through the fourth and fifth steps is 30°C to 80°C.

3. (Original) The method of manufacturing a golf ball according to claim 2, wherein a transition from the fourth step to the fifth step is carried out within a period of 30 seconds before and after the mold reaches the highest temperature T_2 .

4. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a golf ball according to claim ~~16~~, wherein a difference ($T_s - T_1$) between ~~a~~ the softening point T_s of the thermoplastic ~~resin~~ resinous composition and ~~a~~ the temperature T_1 of the mold at time of the start of the fourth step is 15°C or more.

5. (Currently Amended) The method of manufacturing a golf ball according to claim ~~16~~, wherein the cover formed at the fifth step has a nominal thickness of 0.3 mm to 1.0 mm.

6. (New) A method of manufacturing a golf ball having a solid core and a cover which comprises:

forming a solid core,

a first step of forming two hemispherical half shells made of a thermoplastic resinous composition, the total volume of the two half shells being 105% to 120% of the volume of the cover,

a second step of covering the solid core with the half shells in an open mold containing upper and lower portions, each of which having a hemispherical cavity,

a third step of clamping the mold

a fourth step of heating the thermoplastic resinous composition in a spherical cavity formed by the mold and pressurizing the thermoplastic resinous composition at a pressure of 5 kgf/cm^2 to 50 kgf/cm^2 , and causing the excess thermoplastic resinous composition to flow out of the spherical cavity;

a fifth step of heating the thermoplastic resinous composition in the spherical cavity and pressurizing the thermoplastic resinous composition at a pressure of 70 kgf/cm^2 or more to form the cover, and

removing the golf ball from the mold.